

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Chikashi INOKUCHI et al. : Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH  
Serial No. NEW : Docket No. 2001\_1701A  
Filed November 14, 2001 :  
OPTICAL DISC APPARATUS AND METHOD  
FOR READING INFORMATION

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

**COVER LETTER FOR APPLICATION FILED  
WITHOUT EXECUTED DECLARATION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The above-identified application has been submitted without an executed oath or declaration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.41(c).

It is respectfully requested that this application be assigned a serial number and awarded a filing date pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53.

A duly executed oath or declaration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.63 will be submitted after notification by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53(f).

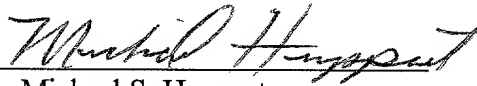
A non-executed copy of the Declaration and Power of Attorney, containing the inventorship information, is attached. It is respectfully requested that all communications be directed to the firm indicated on the attached Declaration and Power of Attorney, namely:

WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.  
2033 K Street, N.W., Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021

The required U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Filing Fee is submitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Chikashi INOKUCHI et al.

By   
Michael S. Huppert  
Registration No. 40,268  
Attorney for Applicants

MSH/kjf  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
November 14, 2001

## DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR U.S. PATENT APPLICATION

(X) Original    () Supplemental    () Substitute    () PCT    () DESIGN

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Title: OPTICAL DISC APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR READING INFORMATION

of which is described and claimed in:

() the attached specification, or

(X) the specification in application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed November 14, 2001, and with amendments through \_\_\_\_\_, or

() the specification in International Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, and as amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the content of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above.

I acknowledge my duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 (and §172 if this application is for a Design) of any application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NO.	DATE OF FILING	PRIORITY CLAIMED
Japan	2000-348203	November 15, 2000	YES

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	U.S. FILING DATE	STATUS: PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED

And I hereby appoint Michael R. Davis, Reg. No. 25,134; Matthew M. Jacob, Reg. No. 25,154; Warren M. Cheek, Jr., Reg. No. 33,367; Nils Pedersen, Reg. No. 33,145; Charles R. Watts, Reg. No. 33,142; and Michael S. Huppert, Reg. No. 40,268, who together constitute the firm of WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P., as well as any other attorneys and agents associated with Customer No. 000513, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

I hereby authorize the U.S. attorneys and agents named herein to accept and follow instructions from AOYAMA & PARTNERS as to any action to be taken in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorneys and myself. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorneys named herein will be so notified by me.

Direct Correspondence to Customer No:



000513

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Direct Telephone Calls to:

WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L L P  
2033 "K" Street, N.W., Suite 800  
Washington, D C 20006-1021

Phone: (202) 721-8200  
Fax: (202) 721-8250

<b>Full Name of First Inventor</b>	<b>FAMILY NAME</b> INOKUCHI	<b>FIRST GIVEN NAME</b> Chikashi	<b>SECOND GIVEN NAME</b>
<b>Residence &amp; Citizenship</b>	<b>CITY</b> Hirakata-shi	<b>STATE OR COUNTRY</b> Japan	<b>COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP</b> Japan
<b>Post Office Address</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b> 2-17-13, Fujisakamotomachi, Hirakata-shi, Osaka	<b>CITY</b> Osaka	<b>STATE OR COUNTRY</b> 573-0157 Japan

<b>Full Name of Second Inventor</b>	<b>FAMILY NAME</b> KOISHI	<b>FIRST GIVEN NAME</b> Kenji	<b>SECOND GIVEN NAME</b>
<b>Residence &amp; Citizenship</b>	<b>CITY</b> Sanda-shi	<b>STATE OR COUNTRY</b> Japan	<b>COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP</b> Japan
<b>Post Office Address</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b> 56-8, Keyakidai 3-chome, Sanda-shi, Hyogo	<b>CITY</b> Hyogo	<b>STATE OR COUNTRY</b> 669-1321 Japan

<b>Full Name of Third Inventor</b>	<b>FAMILY NAME</b> KONNO	<b>FIRST GIVEN NAME</b> Koju	<b>SECOND GIVEN NAME</b>
<b>Residence &amp; Citizenship</b>	<b>CITY</b> Takatsuki-shi	<b>STATE OR COUNTRY</b> Japan	<b>COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP</b> Japan
<b>Post Office Address</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b> 4-28-902, Minamiakutagawa-cho, Takatsuki-shi, Osaka	<b>CITY</b> Osaka	<b>STATE OR COUNTRY</b> 569-1124 Japan

<b>Full Name of Fourth Inventor</b>	<b>FAMILY NAME</b> OSADA	<b>FIRST GIVEN NAME</b> Yutaka	<b>SECOND GIVEN NAME</b>
<b>Residence &amp; Citizenship</b>	<b>CITY</b> Fujisawa-shi	<b>STATE OR COUNTRY</b> Japan	<b>COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP</b> Japan
<b>Post Office Address</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b> 4984, Endo, Fujisawa-shi, Kanagawa	<b>CITY</b> Kanagawa	<b>STATE OR COUNTRY</b> 252-0816 Japan

<b>Full Name of Fifth Inventor</b>	<b>FAMILY NAME</b> OTA	<b>FIRST GIVEN NAME</b> Mitsuhiko	<b>SECOND GIVEN NAME</b>
<b>Residence &amp; Citizenship</b>	<b>CITY</b> Yokohama-shi	<b>STATE OR COUNTRY</b> Japan	<b>COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP</b> Japan
<b>Post Office Address</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b> 4-1-1-F308, Nara, Aoba-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa	<b>CITY</b> Kanagawa	<b>STATE OR COUNTRY</b> 227-0036 Japan

<b>Full Name of Sixth Inventor</b>	<b>FAMILY NAME</b> KAWAI	<b>FIRST GIVEN NAME</b> Takashi	<b>SECOND GIVEN NAME</b>
<b>Residence &amp; Citizenship</b>	<b>CITY</b> Sagamihara-shi	<b>STATE OR COUNTRY</b> Japan	<b>COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP</b> Japan
<b>Post Office Address</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b> 2744-1-1104, Kamitsuruma, Sagamihara-shi, Kanagawa	<b>CITY</b> Kanagawa	<b>STATE OR COUNTRY</b> 228-0802 Japan

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

1st Inventor	_____	Date	_____
	Chikashi INOKUCHI		
2nd Inventor	_____	Date	_____
	Kenji KOISHI		
3rd Inventor	_____	Date	_____
	Koju KONNO		
4th Inventor	_____	Date	_____
	Yutaka OSADA		
5th Inventor	_____	Date	_____
	Mitsuhiko OTA		
6th Inventor	_____	Date	_____
	Takashi KAWAI		

The above application may be more particularly identified as follows:

U.S. Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ Filing Date November 14, 2001

Applicant Reference Number 533928 Atty Docket No. 2001\_1701A

Title of Invention OPTICAL DISC APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR READING INFORMATION